

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY SEPTEMBER 9, 2013

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 10, 2013

Senate Joint Resolution

No. 13

Introduced by Senator Yee

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Alejo, Ammiano, Atkins, Bloom, Bocanegra, Bonilla, Bonta, Bradford, Brown, Buchanan, Ian Calderon, Campos, Chau, Chávez, Chesbro, Cooley, Daly, Dickinson, Eggman, Fong, Fox, Frazier, Garcia, Gatto, Gomez, Gonzalez, Roger Hernández, Holden, Jones-Sawyer, Levine, Lowenthal, Medina, Mitchell, Mullin, Muratsuchi, Nazarian, Pan, Perea, John A. Pérez, V. Manuel Pérez, Quirk, Quirk-Silva, Rendon, Skinner, Stone, Ting, Weber, Wieckowski, Williams, and Yamada)

May 24, 2013

Senate Joint Resolution No. 13—Relative to immigration.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 13, as amended, Yee. Immigration reform: F3 and F4 visa categories.

This measure would memorialize the President and Congress of the United States to support immigration reform efforts that do not hurt families by eliminating or negatively impacting the F3 and F4 visa categories, or that end the discrimination against same-sex couples. The measure would memorialize the President and Congress to take a comprehensive, bipartisan, and well reasoned approach to immigration issues that maintains the fair and appropriate priority for family reunification, including same-sex partners.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Immigrants are a vibrant, productive, and vital part
2 of California's growing economy, diverse cultural fabric, and
3 changing demographics; and

4 WHEREAS, Immigrants fuel California's economy through
5 their labor and entrepreneurship, comprising approximately
6 one-third of California's labor force and figuring prominently in
7 key economic sectors such as agriculture, construction,
8 manufacturing, and services; and

9 WHEREAS, Federal legislation has been proposed that offers
10 a path to citizenship for many of the 11 million undocumented
11 immigrants already living in the United States; and

12 WHEREAS, Unfortunately, the proposed law eliminates the F4
13 visa category so that United States citizens will no longer be able
14 to sponsor their brothers and sisters. It also places an age cap on
15 the F3 visa category so that United States citizens can only sponsor
16 their adult children if they are not more than 30 years old; and

17 WHEREAS, Eliminating the ability of United States citizens to
18 sponsor their loved ones such as brothers, sisters, and adult married
19 children 31 years of age and older, runs counter to the family values
20 that are a cornerstone of our nation. It is also counterproductive
21 since it limits the ability of immigrant families to contribute to the
22 entrepreneurship and innovation that have been vital drivers of
23 economic growth throughout our nation's history; and

24 WHEREAS, Unfortunately, the proposed law also does not offer
25 same-sex couples the same preference as heterosexual couples;
26 and

27 WHEREAS, The inability of United States citizens to sponsor
28 their same-sex partner will divide families, and this practice clearly
29 holds LGBT families in a second-class status; and

30 WHEREAS, People with their families are happier, healthier,
31 and more able to succeed than those living apart for years on end.
32 By pooling resources, families can do together what they cannot
33 do alone—start businesses, create jobs, and contribute more to the
34 general welfare; and

35 WHEREAS, Eliminating the F4 and altering the F3 visa
36 categories will have a profound impact on Asian Americans and
37 Pacific Islanders. In November 2012, there were 4.3 million people
38 in the family immigration backlog, nearly one-half of whom were
39 from Asian countries. Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders
40 sponsored over 40 percent of all family-based visas in 2010. Some

1 Asian immigrants have been forced to wait as long as 23 years to
2 be reunited with their families in the United States, largely due to
3 the limitations and inefficiencies of our legal immigration system;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, One and one-half million Latinos are on the waiting
6 list for family reunification, making up one-third of the backlog,
7 with some waiting as long as 20 years; and

8 WHEREAS, We support the expansion of availability of H-1B
9 visas as well as other visas necessary to bring needed workers into
10 our country to grow our economy; and

11 WHEREAS, We commend the efforts of the federal government
12 in working towards a comprehensive reform measure that is
13 compassionate to the immigrant, protects our nation's economy,
14 and safeguards our national security while upholding the dignity
15 of the United States Constitution. However, we strongly encourage
16 congressional representatives to reexamine the possible elimination
17 of the F4 visa category and modification of the F3 visa category;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, A bipartisan, comprehensive workable immigration
20 reform package must be based not only on a path towards
21 permanent residency and citizenship, but also on the promotion
22 of strong and healthy families who are the core of our vibrant
23 nation; now, therefore, be it

24 *Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of*
25 *California, jointly*, That the Legislature of the State of California
26 respectfully memorializes the President and the Congress of the
27 United States to support immigration reform efforts that do not
28 hurt families by eliminating or negatively impacting the F3 and
29 F4 visa categories, or that end the discrimination against same-sex
30 couples; and be it further

31 *Resolved*, That the Legislature urges the President and the
32 Congress of the United States to take a comprehensive, bipartisan,
33 and well-reasoned approach to solving our nation's broken
34 immigration system, while maintaining the fair and appropriate
35 priority for family reunification, including same-sex partners; and
36 be it further

37 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
38 this resolution to the President and the Vice President of the United
39 States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the
40 Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and

- 1 Representative from California in the Congress of the United
- 2 States.

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